



Franklin County Conservation District Newsletter



VOL. 26 NO 3

FALL 2012

GRAZING SCHOOL TO BE HELD IN UNION

Have you ever wondered what all the hoopla regarding rotational grazing systems is about?

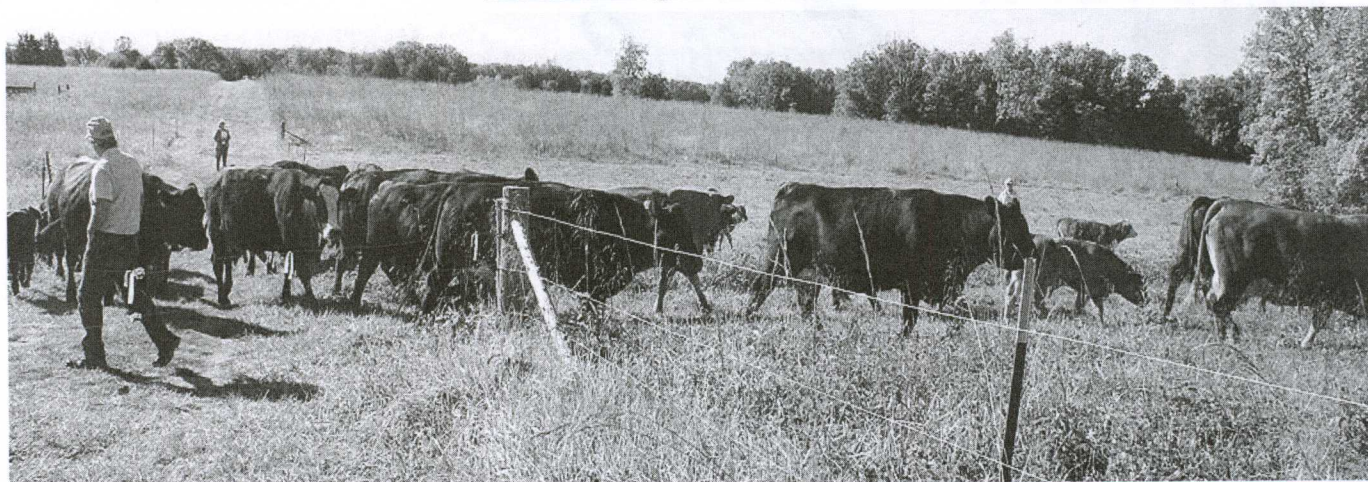
Well, grazing management is more than just moving livestock from one pasture to another. It begins with balancing livestock demand with forage supply, and includes proper water, mineral and nutrient distribution and much more.

The steady use of an area by livestock can cause erosion problems and affect water quality thus prompting the need to improve the vegetative cover on pastures; develop a planned rotational grazing system that may include water sources and water distribution, install fence to construct paddocks, lime to manage the pH of the soil and the interseeding of legumes. With the State Cost Share program, you have 3 years to install a complete rotational grazing system and the landowner or operator must attend a State approved grazing school in order to participate in the State Cost Share Grazing Management practices of:

- **WATER DEVELOPMENT**- Constructing a well or pond; 10 year maintenance; \$95 per acre max
- **WATER DISTRIBUTION**- Installing waterlines and tanks; 10 year maintenance; \$85 per acre max
- **FENCE**- Installing interior fence to construct paddocks; 10 year maintenance; \$60 per acre max
- **LIME**- One-time applying limestone onto an existing rotational system; 5 year maintenance; \$50 per acre max
- **SEED**- One-time interseeding legumes into an existing rotational system; 5 year maintenance; \$40 per acre max
- **PERMANENT VEGETATIVE COVER ENHANCEMENT**- Improving productive cover in existing rotational system by no-tilling, interseeded legumes; 5 year maintenance; maximum of 160 acres

Join us on September 12 & 13, 2012 to find out the benefits of a rotational grazing system.

For additional information, call Lori Nowak at 636-583-2303 extension 3 or email her at lori.nowak@swcd.mo.gov.



**SECTION
OMITTED**

Getting Water for Your Livestock

By Stephen S. Sparks

In grazing systems many farmers do a good job to ensure that they have good pasture (having a good stand of grass), hay (enough in barn to feed the livestock during the winter and hot dry summer months), and grain (to give that extra nutrition) that is high quality and of sufficient quantity, but they ignore the quality and quantity of their herds water.

With this lack of rain we been having, water is a vital key to animal health, when it is neglected the livestock performance will drop more quickly and more severely than any other nutrient deficiency. So farmers should provide their livestock with plenty of good, clean water to drink. When livestock have access to good, clean water, it increases their intake of water, which increase intake of dry matter. Most livestock are going to stay near where the water is located and for good efficiency for livestock 800 feet is a good traveling distance.

Here at Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District we offer programs that will help get water to the spots that will help your livestock's performance.

Sensitive Areas

- Stream Protection (WQ-10): cost-share is authorized for the exclusion fence of an existing water source (streams, creeks, and rivers) and development of a new water source (well or pond) and pipeline from the new/existing well(s) and ponds to water distribution point(s) limited one per a field adjacent to the qualifying stream.
- Spring Development (N574): cost-share is authorized for exclusion fence around an existing spring with trenching and installation of pipe from the spring to a distribution point (only one) including the outlet, not to exceed 300 feet.

Grazing management:

Anything under grazing we require that owner/operator attend grazing school to be eligible for these practice

- Water Development (DSP-3.1): In DSP-3.1, Cost-Share is authorized for the development of a water source (well or pond) when the use of an existing source is not present or unable to be used. It must be the least cost effective, based on the size and type of water source needed.
- Water Distribution (DSP-3.2): Cost-Share is authorized for needed components to install pipeline and a water distribution point(s) for livestock water from a water source.

Water distribution points can range from concrete tanks, portable tank, freeze proof ball tanks, and tire tanks.





Wildlife Habitat Farm Tour

Saturday, August 25, 2012

9:00 am – 2:00 pm



Arvil Kappelman Farm (directions provided upon request)

If you would like to learn how to manage your property to improve habitat for deer, turkey, quail, small game, songbirds, pollinating insects and other wildlife, this farm tour is for you! Forest and wildlife professionals will lead wagon tours for you to personally view and discuss examples of various management practices such as timber stand improvement, woody edge enhancement, native grass and wildflower plantings, prescribed burning, glade and woodland management, invasive species control and more. You'll also learn about the many cost-share opportunities available. A complimentary lunch will be provided. **Registration is required** and space is limited so please call **636-583-2303, ext. 101** (Lori) or **ext. 115** (Lia) no later than **August 17th**. This event is free of charge but please bring a lawn chair!

Presented by: Missouri Department of Conservation, Missouri River Valley Chapter Quail Forever and Four Rivers National Wild Turkey Federation

State Cost Share funds available for FY13

**Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District
FY13 Cost Share Allocation (beginning July 1, 2012)**

<u>Resource Concern</u>	<u>Dollar Amount</u>
Animal Waste	\$ 50,000.00
Grazing Management	\$ 13,964.00
Nutrient & Pest	\$ 15,000.00
Sensitive Areas	\$ 26,509.00
Sheet, Rill, & Gully	\$ 93,921.00
Woodland Erosion	\$ 5,168.00
Total:	\$204,562.00

Leann Schmidt, NRCS Soil Conservationist transfers to another county within the State of Missouri. We wish her the Best of Luck at her new location!

Welcome, Kervin!

In June, Kervin Bryant, NRCS Soil Conservationist transfers from the St. Peters office to the Union office.

Kervin is originally from Georgia and attended Lincoln University in 2009 to study Ag Natural Resource Management. Kervin was hired by NRCS and worked in the St. Peters office for a year and half before being transferred here. Kervin is expecting his first child and loves sports.

Kervin is looking forward to working with the landowners and he is very eager to assist them on applying conservation on the ground.



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**1004 Vondera Ave. • Union, MO 63084
636-583-2303 • 1-800-583-3584**

The Franklin County Conservation District was organized in 1944 with a primary objective to solve soil and water conservation problems. The District, upon request, aids in planning and applying appropriate land use and conservation treatment measures.

OFFICE STAFF PERSONNEL

Lori Nowak, District Clerk, FCSWCD
Stephen Sparks, District Technician, FCSWCD
David Menke, Info/Education Specialist, FCSWCD

Rhonda Davault, District Conservationist, NRCS
Kervin Bryant, Soil Conservationist, NRCS
Jerry Busch, Area Soil Technician, NRCS
Deb Frazier, ACES enrollee, NRCS

Lia Heppermann, Private Land Conservationist, MDC
Ryan Diener, Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Are You Tired of Feeding Hay in the Summer?

By Ryan Diener

Mid-summer in Missouri translates into hot and dry conditions in most years, leading to a lull in cattle forage production across the state. The landscape in Missouri shifted years ago to non-native cool season grasses for hay and pasture land. Long gone are the days when cattle were grazing on robust, green stands of grass in August. You would be hard pressed to find that scenario on a Missouri farm today, or even a producer that remembers when that was commonplace. Tall fescue now dominates Missouri as the single most utilized hay and pasture forage.

While tall fescue allows for heavy grazing without severely impacting the stand and some decent early season grazing potential, it also has its problems. Fescue, like other non-native cool season grasses requires fertilization to reach its full potential. This input is getting more costly each year as the price of fertilizer continues to increase. These cool season grasses also go through summer dormancy each year which can leave producers searching for alternative feed sources or having to feed hay from June through September, or even October in some years. This means cattle are left to intake sub-par forage during the time of year when calves are trying to gain the most weight. This system has been in place a long time, and change is always hard to swallow, but there are options that could help producers provide high quality summer forage that can drastically increase cattle gains through the summer,

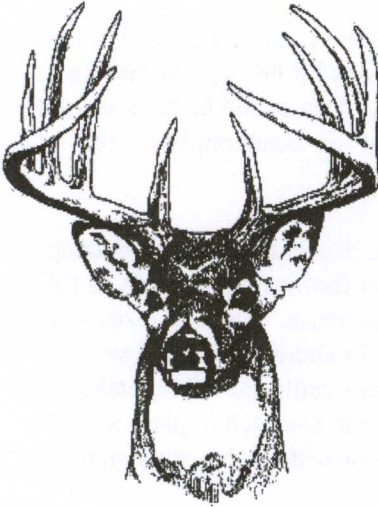
Native warm season grasses which once covered the grasslands of Missouri still have a place in modern grazing systems. These native grasses experience the height of growth from June through August, when the cool season grasses like fescue and brome are dormant. Native grasses test for crude protein levels which are at or above the level of fescue in the best stage of growth. Our native grasses in Missouri also have the potential to average 4 tons of forage per acre, much higher than cool season production. Some of the most important native grasses for forage production are big bluestem, little bluestem, indian grass, switchgrass, and eastern gamagrass. "In a University of Missouri study, big bluestem hay was shown to have a higher percent and rate of dry matter digestibility than fescue hay which allowed cattle to process feed faster, allowing greater and faster forage intake leading to faster weight gains. Another study showed during the summer '94 grazing season, pregnant dairy heifers grazing eastern gamagrass at the Southwest Missouri Research Center produced 2.3 pounds per day average daily gain over a 70 day period. Managers at the Seat Demonstration Farm in Missouri compared average net income between native warm season grass and bluegrass pastures for the years 1983-85. Income was calculated as beef produced minus annual maintenance costs of the pastures. Net income per acre of native warm season grass was \$107.88 versus \$36.33 for the bluegrass. A difference of \$71.55 per acre." (Prairiesource.com)



Missouri cattle producers could increase their bottom line by integrating native warm season grass pasture and hayfields into their grazing systems. I am not suggesting a whole paradigm shift in how we raise cattle in Missouri, but by having a third of your total grazing land converted back to native grasses we could make a big step in the right direction. Native warm season grasses are actually most productive when used in rotation with cool season grass pastures. They provide a quality, cheap forage during those summer months when traditional cool season forages are at a disadvantage. On top of all of these economic reasons to include native grasses in grazing systems is the greatly improved wildlife habitat they provide over fescue pastures and hayfields. We can increase cattle production in Missouri, while greatly improving the available habitat for quail and other wildlife. This is how we will begin to reverse the declining trend with quail, by growing more and healthier cattle!

If you would be interested in seeing if native warm season grasses can have a positive impact on your farm, contact Ryan Diener, Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist in the Union, MO NRCS office at 636-583-2303 ext 113, or on his cell phone at 636-399-8733.

Deer Management Workshop



Do you ever wonder how many deer you should be harvesting off your property? Would you be interested in making your habitat more attractive to mature bucks? Are you curious about incentive programs available for habitat improvement? If so, this event is for you! The Missouri Department of Conservation will hold this free workshop on Saturday, September 22 from 9am to 2pm at the Powder Valley Nature Center in Kirkwood. Topics to be covered will include deer biology and behavior, herd and habitat management, data collection techniques and cost share programs. Registration is required and a complementary lunch will be provided. Seating is limited to the first 200 people, so call today to save your seat. For more information or to register, call 636-528-4877 x3.

Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District does not endorse nor recommend any of the vendors/contractors advertised in this newsletter. Any Contractor/vendor that requests to be added to the District's Contractor List can do so.

SECTION OMITTED

Area I Outstanding Farmer - High Hill Farm



Our Area I Outstanding Farmer award goes to High Hill Farm in Lonedell. Gerald & Tracy Maupin bought their 100 plus acre farm in 1988. The farm is two-thirds pasture which is grazed by a Simmental crossbred cow/calf operation.

In 2004, Gerald & Tracy applied for Federal cost share assistance through the EQIP - Environmental Quality Incentive Program to help them install a rotational grazing system. 5,800 feet of fence was installed to provide 8 grazing paddocks and exclude livestock out of the wooded areas. Ponds, freeze proof waterers or hydrants provide a water source in each paddock for the cattle. Also, several fields were fertilized, limed and interseeded with legumes to improve the plant quality. The Maupins have seen the benefits of the grazing system by reducing the amount of hay they feed per year.

Gerald & Tracy currently are participating in CSP - Conservation Stewardship Program which is a Farm Bill program that provides cost share dollars for individuals who practice good conservation habits and are willing to enhance their conservation activities.

For several years in the local and State fairs, the Maupins have shown cattle, goats, sheep, chickens and rabbits through the 4H club and FFA.



Keep up the
good
conservation
work and
congratulations
to High Hill
Farm!



FRANKLIN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
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COMING EVENTS

Tuesday, August 14, 2012
SWCD Regular Board Meeting
8:00 a.m., USDA Service Center

Monday, September 3, 2012
USDA Service Center closed
Labor Day Holiday

Tuesday, September 11, 2012
SWCD Regular Board Meeting
8:00 a.m., USDA Service Center

Wed&Thurs, Sept 12&13, 2012
Grazing School - Union
7:30 am to 4:00 pm

Monday, October 8, 2012
USDA Service Center closed
Columbus Day Holiday

Tuesday, October 9, 2012
SWCD Regular Board Meeting
8:00 a.m., USDA Service Center

Call to confirm meeting date and times. All regular meetings are open to the public.



Quarterly Quote

*“Essentially, all life depends upon the soil...
There can be no life without soil and
no soil without life;
they have evolved together.”*

Charles E. Kellogg, 1938

THANK YOU

The District Board appreciates the cooperation of the businesses that advertise in our newsletter and hope that our readers patronize these advertisers. The Board especially appreciates the financial assistance of the Franklin County Commission. Thanks also to our partners in conservation: NRCS, FSA, DNR, University Extension, MDC, and the county newspapers and radio stations. Assistance from the Soil and Water Conservation District is available to all county residents regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. State Cost-share funds are available for agriculture landowners that have active erosion and are approved to complete practices that solve the problem.